

WARREN
MAGAZINE



VAMPI
#72

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VAMPIRELLA

4871 000

FANGS FLASHING,
CLAWS SLASHING,
IT'S PANTHA
TO THE RESCUE...

...WHEN VAMPI
IS KIDNAPPED
BY A CRAZED
BEHEMOTH!
page 5!



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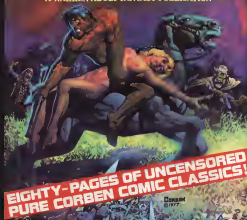
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VAMPIRELA

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Kew Gilbert sings a song to our favorite girl and our man in West Germany wants to proposition you! Also the idea of a fan page is still generating a lot of heat, but alas, no action!

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Vampi's Scarlet Letters

KEWCROONS, AND VAMPI BLUSHES LIKE A LADY!

Hey, Dube! Give us more Rock and VAMPI! I loved Granny Gearloose! Rotten Small was an unloved but lovable villain who, I thought, was unfairly depicted. It wasn't his fault that Granny built him with a face that only a mother could love! He reminded me of a small child who was eager to learn if VAMPI knew he was a machine, then she could have found a million ways to deactivate rather than decapitate him. It was unmerciful to remove his head.

If you guys are going to do a fan page, then do it right. Print a three page script and turn your fans loose on that. Or why not let the fans do a script? It might be interesting to see what the fans could do for (or to) VAMPI! The best fan art submission would get a full blown commission to do a VAMPI story, and get paid too! That ought to light a few fires!

This edition of Granny Gearloose is a return to the Dube! of old! More, more, more!

DAVID FINLEY
N.Y.C., N.Y.

 Our readers pay good money to purchase the work of the finest comic book artists and writers available and there is no guarantee that even the best of the fan submissions would be up to that standard. If any of them are, however, we would be delighted to commission work by them. We're always eager to find another Jose Gonzalez, Rich Corben or Bruce Jones!

VAMPI #70 was a really mixed bag! First the good news: Leo Duranona, Jose Ortiz, Ramon Torrents and Aurelio all turned in exquisite jobs (four out of five can't be bad). Ortiz and Aurelio were suitably gloomy, and both eschewed art, brooding at work. Meanwhile both Torrents and Duranona turned in their usual fine art.

But, with the exception of "Swamp Lovers," most of the stories were uninspired and outdated. Yes, outdated! I'm not sure what I would call modern, but that issue didn't make it into this decade.

KIERNAN DIAMOND
Philadelphia, Pa.

I really enjoyed issue #69. The cover was a treat! I thought I'd send the following song I wrote about VAMPI Woman: you're so beautiful and sleek.

You gaze at me and I feel so weak

I want to run my fingers through your long black hair I know what you want But I just don't care! So you can drink my blood to quench your thirst But all I ask

is that we make love first! Oh VAMPIRELLA, VAMPIRELLA. You are a helluva woman

Now my head is spinning and I feel like I'm going to float I can feel a sharp piercing at my throat

But I don't care, I don't care 'cause I got to rub my fingers in your long black hair!

Oh VAMPIRELLA, VAMPIRELLA. You're a helluva woman

Oh VAMPIRELLA, VAMPIRELLA. You're a helluva woman!

KEW GILBERT
Peabody, Mass.

I have enjoyed reading your mag for six years now, and it has, really improved, in that time. But I have noticed that since VAMPI went to Hollywood, who doesn't care about anything or anyone anymore. I was really disturbed to see VAMPI using sex as a weapon to kill and destroy her enemies. I hope this doesn't become a permanent practice. I've also noticed that since Bill Dube! has been writing the VAMPI series that all the characters have changed. The great Pendragon has stopped drinking, Conrad has lost his psychic powers and Adam hasn't been seen since issue #65.

Adam and his father should return, as well as the art work of Jose Gonzalez. I don't mind Dube! continuing with the series as long as he corrects all these mistakes but I must say that "Granny Gearloose" was the best story of the issue.

The Rock and VAMPI teaming up again? Great idea! I now have a subscription to EERIE as well as VAMPIRELLA because of this series! I also give a star to "Exorcism"

BILL SHARP
Knoxville, Tenn.

"Swamp Lovers" is without doubt the most disgusting story I've ever read in a Warren magazine!

D.D. DENHAM
Gore, Va.

I have two very important proposals.

Reprint all the VAMPI stories leaving out all the horror ones. Since Warren only publishes VAMPIRELLA 3 times a year, you could do this during the "free months". That way I could subscribe to them or buy them in a bookstore. Perhaps a limited collector's edition in color would be better.

Continue the Dracula series. Benji Lin doesn't exist any longer and you can't buy the Spanish edition. The German translation stopped after a few books, sooo it's necessary that Warren reprint this outstanding series.

BURKHARD DEHOS
Worms, W. Germany

"Jessie's Friend" was super! Outstanding! Both the art work and the story were fantastic. It was better than "Picture Perfect" in #66. Keep Gonzalez Mayo away from VAMPI, but keep the Jones/ Mayo team together. Their stories are superb.

"Off the Beaten Empire" was really good.

Finally, I hope you have a color VAMPI story the way you did way back in #55. VAMPIRELLA is still my favorite! And always will be!

CHRISTIAN McLAUGHLIN
Pittsfield, Ma.

Thanks for Ken Kelly's masterpiece on the cover of VAMPI #70. I missed him in fact I bought two issues just so I can keep an entire issue intact, and still have the cover in my collection of outstanding art. Also I bought a puzzle from Caplan Company, and when I had finished putting it together, I put the cover out and put it up on my bulletin board at work. It's been there a month now and I'm still getting comments about it from those poor souls that have never heard of VAMPIRELLA. Incredible!

Now what ever you do don't let Ken Kelly get away!

FRANK SIMONETTI
Bloomington, Tx.

I fell in love with the woman on the cover of VAMPI #69. She could bite my neck any time! I would like to know a little more about her!

JOHNNY ELTIS
Genese, Fla.

Despite the overabundance of words on the cover of VAMPI #69, it still is a great cover. I hope this isn't a trend toward wordiness, though. This month's CREEPY #97 and EERIE #92 were spare and simple and very effective!

Barbara Leigh (is that her real name) looked a lot better on the cover of #69 than on #67. Since the VAMPIRELLA movie was mentioned in the #69, does that mean that Ms. Leigh will play VAMPI part in the movie??

Gonzalo Mayo did a simply beautiful job on VAMPI this time. It seems to me that he draws less realistically than Jose Gonzalez, but he made VAMPI all the more gorgeous for it! The robot who attacked her was the spitting image of Rotten Dane's robot, Manners But was that old woman Granny Gadget? If so, then that explains why she would have copied Dane's design. She had seen it before.

I hope that the Rock and VAMPI team up again. This could be a perfect lead in to it.

HENRY R. KUJAWA
Carmen N.J.

 To answer your question one at a time, Henry:

At this time, no decision has been made as to who will play VAMPIRELLA. When we know, you will know.

Granny Gearloose and Granny Gadget are sisters, hence the resemblance you noted. Obviously the two have gotten together and exchanged notes on Rotten Dane's designs. Maybe some time in the future, the Rock will face both inventors in a single issue!

As for the Rock/VAMPI team-up... it appears in EERIE #94 and EERIE #95!

Vampi's Scarlet Letters
CO WARRIN PUBLISHING
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NEW YORK, N.Y. 10006



VAMPIRELLA

MORNING, THE SUN CLIMBS
POETICALLY IN THE HEAT-BUSTERED
SMOG. IT IS ANOTHER STIFLING
CALIFORNIA DAY. A DAY UNLIKE ANY
OTHER FOR *WOLFE'S SLINGING BEAST*.
FOR THE WIZENED BUT ANTIQUATED
PRESTIGIATOR IS ABOUT TO BE
MYSTICALLY TRANSFORMED INTO A
FLOGGING-BUT-ANTIQUATED THESPIAN!
ALL DUE TO THE MYSTIC CONJURANCES
OF ONE PERT MYSTIC FROM THE STARS.

ARE YOU SURE THIS
IS THE PLACE, PANDA?

THIS IS IT, ALWAYS! THE
STUDIO'S SPECIAL EFFECTS
DEPARTMENT! THIS IS WHERE
YOUR DIRECTOR TOLD PEN
TO REPORT!

MY LORD! EXACTLY WHAT
KIND OF A ROLE IS IT FOR WHICH
I AM SUPPOSED TO PREPARE
MYSELF?

THE ONLY ROLE I
COULD LAND YOU ON SUCH
SHORT NOTICE, PEN!

YOU MUST BE HERE TO
PICK UP THE COSTUME I'VE
PREPARED FOR MR. LUMPHY'S
NEW EPIC...

THAT'S RIGHT, BENTLEY-FACE!
YOU'RE LOOKING AT THE NEW
STAR OF *"THE BEAUTY AND THE
SLINGING BEAST OF GORDON III"*!

WOLFE'S SLINGING BEAST?

LOOK AT IT THIS WAY,
PEN... JAMES ARNESS
STARTED OFF AS HUMBLE!

I HOPE YOU'LL
TAKE GOOD CARE OF MY
PACALUS! I PUT SO MUCH
OF MYSELF INTO HIM!

UH... YEAH...! I
CAN SEE THAT!

YOU'LL FIND HIM SO VERY
SIMPLE TO OPERATE...! JUST SIT
HERE AT THE CONTROL PANEL...AND
FEED OUT THE ONE-WAY MEMBER IN
MY LITTLE MAN'S TUM TUM!

TUM TUM?

PUSH THIS BUTTON TO
START. THE BUTTON TO
STOP...! MY PACALUS
WILL DO THE REST!

AMAZING? NOW YOU
SHAKE YOU CAN GET THE OLD
TURKEY INTO THAT THING AND
ONTO THE SET IN FIFTEEN
MINUTES...! I'VE STILL GOT
TO GET CINDERELLA HERE
INTO COSTUME...





AND SO IT IS... THE FIRST DAY ON THE SET OF THE ABOUT-TO-BE FILMED HOLLYWOOD CLASSIC, "THE SLIME BELIST OF OPIDUS II" * THAT ONE GRILLS RANTON CRANBERRY III, ACE SPECIAL EFFECTS TECHNICIAN, LUMBER'S LEONEROLUSLY TOWARDS AN UNSUSPECTING BUT FAR FROM HELPLESS HURTRUSS FROM THE STARS...

ALL RIGHT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! THIS IS IT! SCENE ONE! TAKE ONE!

LIGHTS!

CAMERAS!

ROLL 'EM!

THE BEAUTY AND THE



OH, MY BRAVE AND
HONORABLE KNIGHT FROM
AFAR! *SAVE ME!*

WHISK ME AWAY FROM THIS
IGNOBLE KINGDOM OF UNWASHED
BUT MANLY BRUTES!

TAKE ME WITH YOU
TO THE HEAVENS WHERE
AWAITS UNBEARABLE
BLISSFUL *RESTACY!*

BEHEMOTH









I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN!
YOU ARE FROM ORADE...
AREN'T YOU?

NO ONE ELSE WOULD
GO TO SUCH DESPERATE
LENGTHS TO ABDUCT
ME!



WELL WHATEVER
WHATEVER YOU ARE!



...YOU'LL NOT TAKE
ME WITHOUT A FIGHT!

ON HONESTY: A
PRANKSTER? A KILLER
SLACK OFF! BUT... BUT NOW
WHERE DID THAT COME
FROM?



COME, COME, MY ELPHINOUS
EMPHERAL SHIRTWEAT... I SOON HE
WILL BE SUCCESSFULLY ALOONE, RUMMAGING
IMPATIENTLY THROUGH EACH OTHER'S
BESIDEAN DELIGHTS... YOUR TINDITY
ABANDONED IN ECSTASY!

GAAAAH!
TRANSMISSION
FLUID!



NO! HOOD!
GROAAAAH!
HE... IT'S TAKING
HER TO THE TOP
OF THAT SKY-
SCRAPER! WHAT
DOES HE THINK
THIS IS... A
PULSARITIS
FILM?

SOMEBODY
STOP THEM...!

PLEASE?



WITH ALL DUE
RESPECT... Y-YOU
STOP THEM, SIR?

WE'RE GETTING OUT
OF THIS WEASE
PLACE!



...BUT I CAN SURELY END YOUR WICKED DEMONIC SCHEME WITH A HEALTHY DOSE OF DRAGONLORD HYPNOSIS!





OH, DARTH...! WHAT...
WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

NO... WE'VE KILLED
HIM, DARL!...! MURDERED
THAT POOR LITTLE LOVE-STARRING
MAN WITH OUR BRAZEN REJECTION
OF HIS AFFECTIONS! OH (SIGH!)
IF ONLY HE HAD IT TO DO OVER
AGAIN! IF ONLY HE WERE ALIVE...
SO WE COULD MAKE HIM
HAPPY!



DO YOU REALLY
MEAN IT?



UH OH, DARTH!
I THINK HE HE'S IN
FOR IT NOW!

YOU DON'T BELIEVE WHAT I SAID
ABOUT SHIRING IT ALL, DID YOU, MY LOVE?
I LEAPED FREE OF DAEDALLUS JUST BEFORE
HIS DEASTERIOUS FALL!



UH, LISTEN, DARY... YOU...
YOU'RE NOT REALLY GOING TO
HOLD ME TO WHAT I SAID IN
A BAD MOMENT OF GRIEF?

R-R-REALLY?
I SNIFLE!

YOU... YOU MEAN...
YOU DON'T LOVE ME AFTER
ALL? (S-SOFTLY)



O-OVILLE, I, I...!
OH, WHAT THE HELL! C'MON,
KID, I LET'S YOU'N ME GET
BETTER ACQUAINTED!

WHY I SEE IT... AFTER
FORTY-THREE YEARS AND ALL
YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH... IT'S
THE LEAST I CAN DO!



OH JOY! JOY!
HEAVEN... AT LONG
LAST!

THIS ENDS THE LIFE OF
ORVILLE FAULTON CRANBERRY
THE HYPERBOLIC... AND BEGINS
THE SAGA OF... A MONSTER!

THE COMIC BOOKS

by Joe Brancatelli

DEATH BY THE NUMBERS

Every February and March, the comic publishers are required to print circulation figures in order to fulfill federal periodical mailing requirements.

Every February and March, for as long as I can remember, these numbers get worse. Sales go down. Print orders are slashed. Excuses from the comic-book publishers get less and less plausible as their readership gets smaller and smaller.

This year is no exception—unless you consider the fact that circulation in 1977 was worse than anyone dared expect as an exception.

While I'm still waiting most of the Marvel data, I do have comparisons of sales for 1974, 1976 and 1977 for a baker's dozen of the DC books. The numbers are startlingly poor (see chart at bottom of page).

There are several dozen ways to read those numbers. All ways of interpreting them illuminate just how badly the comic industry is general—and DC in particular—is doing. You can compare the 1974 sales to the 1977 sales and see that 12 of the 13 books

reported 3-year sales declines of at least 13 percent, half of those lost more than a fifth of their 1974 readership by 1977. And these are not the dregs of the DC line, to be sure. These books are among the better sellers DC has, including four of its titles continuously published since the early 1940s or late 1930s.

But let's lay aside the long-term readership decline for a moment because, if you project back to the early 1960s, 1977's figures would show an approximate 80 percent decline.

Let's concentrate instead on the incredible one-year sales declines experienced by the magazines; the huge losses in circulation suffered by DC comics in just 12 months.

With the exception of *Wonder Woman*, which showed only a marginal increase, all the books had a large one-year sales decline. *Superman*, *Superman Family* and *Superboy* decreased 13.9, 46.4 and 15.5 percent, respectively. *Justice League of America* was down 21.2 percent, *Detective* down 14.8 percent, *Action* down 13.4 percent and *Batman* down 10.6 percent.

Some of the declines

could be chalked up to format changes and price rises, but some can not. Certainly no magazine selling in the low hundreds of thousands can afford 30 percent losses in sales no matter what the reason.

Upon closer examination, even *Wonder Woman*'s 1.3 percent one-year increase pales. The book has been on the verge of cancellation for years, always saved from the ax at the last minute by the licensing and merchandising people who wanted the comic around to boost their efforts. Last year's 2,000-copy rise came only after the book has had the additional exposure of a prime-time network television series.

All these numbers are even more depressing when you consider the fact that 1977 was DC publisher Jenette Kahn's first full year at the helm. After taking over in 1976 and then blaming everything on former head honcho Carmine Infantino, she virtually guaranteed comic observers—and DC's parent company, Warner Communications—that she could turn the books around.

DC was amazing everyone early last year that 1977 was going to be a bonanza. "We are enthusias-

tic about the future—there are strong trends here," DC flak Mike Gold wrote to me last February in a letter explaining away 1976's discouraging reports.

It's obvious now that 1977 was a bust, that shrinking of the comic audience was accelerated in 1977 rather than slowed down or reversed. As prices continue to spiral and readership declines, DC continues to force higher priced reads on a smaller and smaller audience. The point of diminishing returns has already been reached—and passed—and it is clear Jenette Kahn has hurt more than helped.

Early indications from the Marvel side of the ledger sheet are frankly no better, although 1977's figures are not as severely depressed as DC's. We'll try to report on the rest of the DC numbers and the Marvel numbers next time.

Things look very, very bleak in the comics world, fellow readers, and it is very, very clear that the folks at the top don't know what they are doing.

MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE RANCH

Here are the figures for Warren Publishing: *Crazy* 96,085 (1974), 91,762 (1977); *Berie* 90,595 (1974), 93,279 (1977); *Vampirlia* 91,364 (1977).

The Comic Book	1974 Sales	1976 Sales	1977 Sales	% Loss Since '74	% Loss Since '76
Action	237,000	208,000	186,000	24.0	13.6
Batman	193,000	178,000	159,000	17.6	10.6
Bruce & Bold	192,000	165,000	153,000	20.3	7.8
Detective	146,000	148,000	126,000	13.6	14.8
Flash	184,000	163,000	153,000	16.8	6.1
House of Mystery	175,000	124,000	92,000	47.4	25.8
Justice League	189,000	193,000	152,000	19.5	21.2
Our Fighting Forces	161,000	112,000	107,000	33.5	4.4
Superman	286,000	273,000	235,000	17.8	13.9
Superboy	225,000	218,000	184,000	18.2	15.5
Superman Family	171,000	163,000	95,000	46.6	40.4
Wonder Woman	149,000	150,000	152,000	(2.0)	(1.3)
Witching Hour	176,000	134,000	115,000	34.6	14.1

Note: All figures as published by DC, Inc. to the nearest thousand. Figures in brackets indicate net gain.

PROLOGUE



OH, MY, HARDS, YOU'RE NOT LISTENING TO ME! I SHOWED YOU THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE LAST MAN WHO RYDING BESTVILLE MANDR!

YEAH, YEAH, YOU SHOWED ME!

IT'S NOT YOU I'M SKEPTICAL OF, TED... IT'S THE GUY WHO TOOK THOSE SHOTS AND PASSED THEM OFF AS THE REAL THING!



I HEAR REALLY, TED-- YOU'RE THE PH.D. HERE! A MAN WITH YOUR IQ OUGHT TO BE MORE CYNICAL!



ME, I JUST COME BY IT NATURALLY!

BRIDGE... AND'S... BRIDGE... YOU NAME IT, I DON'T BRIDGE IT!



THAT'S IT! I GIVE UP! I TRIED TO MARRY YOU, BUT YOU WOULDN'T LISTEN!

GO ON, SEE IF I CARE...

"I GO TO BESTVILLE! YOU'LL FIND OUT... JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHERS!"



HOW MUCH FURTHER IS IT, NOW?

JUST ANOTHER THIRTY MILES! LAY BACK AND HAVE A DREAM OR SOMETHING-- WE'LL BE THERE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT!

OH, BUBB--YOU
CAN OPEN YOUR
EYES NOW!

The EYES have IT



MY GOD, TED... YOU ?
DIDNT TELL ME IT WAS SO
SMALL ! THE TOTAL POPU-
LATION OF THIS PLACE COULDN'T
FILL A GOOD-SIZED AUDITORIUM!

JUST THE WAY I
LIKE IT! LESS NOISE--
MORE PEACE AND QUIET!



BESTVILLE



I'M GOING TO WRITE
A BEST SELLER HERE.
I CAN FEEL IT!

YOU'RE NEVER GOING
TO FIND THIS MOUSE ON
YOUR OWN! YOU'D BETTER
STOP IN THERE AND
ASK SOMEONE!

NO NEED TO WASH! IT'S
JUST UP THE ROAD! DON'T ASK
ME HOW I KNOW... SOMEHOW
I CAN SENSE IT!

OH, FINE!



WELL? ISN'T
IT EVERYTHING I
SAID IT WAS...
AND MORE?

HAH! YOU DID SAY
MUSTO-- BUT THIS RUSTIC
I DIDN'T EXPECT!









YOU WERE RIGHT, THEODORE—THERE IS A BEST-SELLER IN THERE... QUITE A NUMBER OF MEMBERS, IN FACT!

WAIT... WHAT'S THIS... A MAJOR SCREENPLAY TOO?



MY MIX SON... WHAT A PRODUCTIVE CAREER YOU WOULD HAVE HAD AHEAD OF YOU!

YOU ARE TRULY A RARE SPECIMEN... EXTRAORDINARILY RARE INDEED!



IF ONLY YOUR REMAINING COMPANION COULD PROVE TO BE EVEN HALF AS AMBITIOUS AS YOU!



YES, THEODORE... WHEN TIME CANNOT ESCAPE THE FEARFUL GLARE OF THESE EYES!

YOU AND SHE SHALL SURVIVE THIS TORMENT... LET THERE BE SOME FORTUITOUS IN THAT!



I AM WEARY NOW! IT IS TIME TO REST... REST AND DREAM WHAT WERE ONCE YOUR DREAMS!



W-WHAT? NO, PLEASE NO! NOT AGAIN!



THAT EVENING, THE NEW TENANTS OF BESTVILLE MANOR DECIDED TO SIT OUTSIDE FOR A QUIET BREATH OF THE BRISK NIGHT AIR...

ABOUT THAT BEARDED BROTHER OF YOURS MARSHA... THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO KNOW--

YES, TED, WHAT IS IT?

IS HE THE TIME TO SAY I TOLD YOU SO??

ACURAG-800V

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OLD MRS. MILLER
SHE TOLD ME ABOUT
A TIME, TOO!



HE, HE DIDN'T GO AND THAT
CLOSET, DID HE?













OH, LIL! LOOK AT US! WE WERE TALKIN' ABOUT SPIRITS AND GHOSTS AND HAUNTS LIKE THEY... THEY'RE REAL!

ON LORD, LIL! WHAT, WHAT'S COME OVER US?



HE... HE DON'T BELIEVE IN THAT TRIP!

BUT THAT CRAZY BOX... TIPPED HIM OUT SO HE DON'T STEP ON THE INVISIBLE DEAD...



—HE'S GOT ME ACTIN' CRAZY, TOO!



LORD! WE KEEP THIS UP, GIRL... THEY'RE GONNA TAKE US AWAY IN SAME TIME THEY COME FOR THAT LIL FRUITCAKE!



THEY AIN'T NO GHOSTS! THEY AIN'T NO SPIRITS! THE DEAD...!



THERE AIN'T NOthin' IN THIS PLACE 'CEPT A WHOLE LOTTA ANGRY-BALLS RATTLYN' 'ROUND INSIDE THAT LITTLE TURVEY'S HEAD!



END

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Scheherazade

IN DAYS OF YORE AND TIME LONG GONE BEFORE, THERE REIGNED THE KING OF KINGS, THE SULTAN SHAHARRER BAHU DEHAN.

A CONSCIENTIOUS RULER, HE LOVED BY HIS SUBJECTS AND FEARED BY HIS CONVICTION NEIGHBORS.

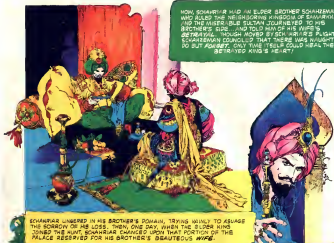
NOW THE SULTAN HAD A WIFE WHOM HE LOVED MORE THAN ALL THE WORLD. HIS GREATEST HAPPINESS WAS TO SURROUND HER WITH THE FINEST LIVING AND THE MOST BEAUTIFUL JEWELS. BUT, ALAS, THE SPOILED QUEEN WISHED FOR MORE TO HIS DEEPEST SHAME AND CAUSING SCORCHING SCANDAL, SHE SURPRISED HIS WIFE IN THE ARMS OF A PALE ACE SLAVE!

OVERCOME WITH RAGE, HIS REASON BARRED BY FURY, THE MONARCH DREW HIS COMITAR AND MERCILESSLY SLAYED THE TRAITOR OF HIS DEEDS.

HE THEN FLUNG HIS PALE SLAVE WARD TO LEAVE HIM MISERY BEHIND.



NOW, SHAHRHAR HAD AN ELDER BROTHER SHAHRIZAM,
WHO RULED THE NEIGHBORING KINGDOM OF SAMARKAND,
AND THE MISERABLE SULTAN JOURNEYED TO HIS
BROTHER'S SIDE...AND TOLD HIM OF HIS WIFE'S
BETRAYAL...THOUGH MOVED BY SHARHAR'S PAIN,
SHARIZAM COUNCELED THAT THERE WAS NAUGHT TO
DO BUT FORGET. ONLY TIME ITSELF COULD HEAL THE
BETRAYED KING'S HEART!



SHARHAR LINGERED IN HIS BROTHER'S DOMAIN, TRYING VAINTLY TO ALLEGE
THE SORROW OF HIS LOSS. THEN, ONE DAY, WHEN THE ELDER KING
JOINED THE HUNT, SHAHRHAR CHANCED UPON THAT PORTION OF THE
PALACE RESERVED FOR HIS BROTHER'S BEAUTEFUL WIFE.

BESIDE HER WERE THREE AND TWENTY CONCUBINES,
EACH A MODEL OF COMELINESS AND SWIFTERY.
THEY STRIPPED THEMSELVES OF THEIR
GARMENTS, AND AS, SHAHRHAR BEHELD,
PALACE GUARDS SLIPPED INTO THE PRIVATE
GARDENS, AND EACH PAIRED WITH A ROYAL
BEAUTY.



WHEN SHAHRHAR BEHELD THE CONDUCT OF HIS BROTHER'S
WIFE AND CONCUBINES, HE SAID TO HIMSELF, "BY ALLAH!
MY OWN PAIN IS LIGHTER THAN THIS! THIS SHOWS ME
THAT ALL WOMEN SEEK TO DECEIVE, AND MAN NOR KING
IS SAFE FROM THEIR MALICE!"

AND HE RESOLVED TO TELL HIS BROTHER, ALL.


"OH, MY BROTHER, I WOULD NOT BELIEVE THEE TO LIE," PROCLAIMED THE ELDER KING. "BUT MY HEART WILL NOT ALLOW ME TO CREDIT YOUR TALE UNTIL I HAVE SEEN THE TREACHERY WITH MINE OWN EYES!" THEREUPON, THE CUNNING MONARCH ANNOUNCED HIS INTENT TO TRAVEL, AND BOTH BROTHERS FARED FORTH FROM THE CITY, ONLY TO RETURN IN SECRET.

THEY STOOD IN THE LATTICE OVERLOOKING THE GARDEN. PRESENTLY THE QUEEN AND CONCUBINES CAME FORTH. HALTING NEAR THE FOUNTAINS THEY SHED THEIR GARBS AND, AS BEFORE, THE PALACE GUARDS APPEARED.

BOTH RULERS, STRICKEN, TURNED AWAY AND LEFT THE ROYAL PALACE, VOWING NEVER TO RETURN....!

"OH, MY BROTHER," SOHAIBAR CRIED, "ONLY IN SOLITUDE CAN A MAN BE SPARED THE PAINS OF THIS VILE WORLD!"





THUS THE BROTHERS ABANDONED
THEIR KINGDOMS AND JOURNEYED
BY DAY AND BY NIGHT UNTIL THEY
CAME UPON THE SHORE OF THE
GREAT SALT SEA. AS THEY LAID
DOWN TO REST, THEY WERE
AWAKENED BY A MIGHTY ROARING.

THE SEA BROKE IN WAVES BEFORE
THEM, AND FROM THE CHURNING
WATERS, A BLACK PILLAR ROSE.
FRIGHTENED, THE BOWL BROTHERS
HID THEMSELVES IN THE NEARBY
BUSH.



THEY SPYED A JENNY...HUGE OF HEIGHT
AND BURLY OF BUST, BEARING ON HIS
HEAD A COFFER OF GLEAMING CRYSTAL.
THE BEAST MADE TO SHORE AND
OPENED THE ARK, AND A PALE-SKINNED
WOMAN EMERGED.

THE KING DIRECTED THE GIRL GENTLY, THEN LAY WITH HER UNDER A BURLY FIG, AND SLEPT WITH A NOISE THAT ROLLED LIKE PEALING THUNDER.



PRESENTLY THE KING, SPED THE ROYAL BROTHERS, SHE NICHED TO THEM TO JOIN HER, BUT BOTH QUIETLY REFUSED. "ALLAH EXCUSE US," SHAHRIAR WHISPERED. "THERE IS LITTLE WE CAN DO TO HELP YOU FROM YOUR FLIGHT."



THE GIRL REJOINED, "I DO NOT REQUIRE YOUR HELP, COME!" SHE DEMANDED. "GIVE ME YOUR LOVE, LET'S ROUSE THE SPIRIT TO SLAY YOU STRAIGHTAWAY!"

* IRBY: A HAUGHTY AND HOSTILE VARIETY OF KING HAZAROUS TO HANDING.

-- THE KORAN XXXI 39.

WHEREUPON THE KING SHAHRIAR AND KING SHAHREHAN PROCEEDED HASTILY TO DO AS SHE B.D. AND WHEN THEY HAD CONCLUDED SHE DEMANDED THEIR RINGS AS PAYMENT, AS A TOKEN OF THEIR LOVE!



"I WILL ADD THESE TWO TO THE FIVE HUNDRED RINGS I WEAR," SHE SAID, "ALL TAKING FROM ME AS YOURSELVES." SHE LAUGHED, AND DISMISSED THEM AS THE KING STARED, AND TWO REMAINS WERE ONLY TWO GRATEFUL TO FLEE...



...AND PONDERED THEIR LESSON WELL. "CONSIDER, OH BROTHER, THE WAYS OF THE LADY WITH THE SPIRIT WHO IS SO MUCH MORE POWERFUL THAN WE," QUOTH HE PERIOD.

THAT WHICH HATH BEFALLEN HIM IS A GREATER MISHAP THAN THE SCORROW WHICH HYE BEAR,

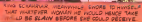


THEREUPON THE KINGS RE-TURNED TO THEIR RESPECTIVE KINGDOMS DETERMINED NEVER AGAIN TO TRUST WOMANKIND! IF A NIGHTS KING IS NAUGHT BEFORE A WOMAN'S WHIMS... THEN FRY BROTHER, WHAT HOPE HAS YOUR MAN?





ONCE UPON HIS THRONE, KING SCHARHUAR ORDERED HIS CHIEF MINISTERS TO SWITE HIS WIFE AND CONCUBINES. THEY HAD FORSAKEN THEIR HUSBAND AND MUST ANSWER FOR THEIR DECEPTION.



KING SCHARHUAR, MEANWHILE, SWORE TO HIMSELF THAT WHATEVER WOMAN HE WOULD HENCE TAKE WOULD BE SLAIN BEFORE SHE COULD DECEIVE.



AND WHEN EACH MORNING DAWNED, TRUE TO HIS VOW, THE MONARCH DEMANDED HER LIFE. THUS, NEVER COULD HE BE DECEIVED BY THE WOMEN HE HAD CLAIMED AS HIS OWN.

KING SCHARHUAR THEN COMMANDED HIS KIEZED TO BRING HIM A MAIDEN EACH NIGHT THAT HE MIGHT KNOW THE SWEET CONQUEST OF LOVE.

IN THIS MANNER, KING SCHAHRIAR CONTINUED FOR THREE YEARS. EACH NIGHT A MAIDEN WENT TO HIS CHAMBER ONLY TO BE SENT TO ALLAH THE NEXT MORN. THE CITIZENS CRIED OUT AGAINST THEIR KING'S IRON RULE, CURSING HIM AND PRAYING FOR HIS DEATH.



MOTHERS WEPT AND PARENTS FLED WITH THEIR DAUGHTERS UNTIL THERE REMAINED IN THE CITY NOT A SINGLE BEAUTIFUL MAID!

YET THE KING ORDERED HIS VIZIER TO BRING HIM A MAIDEN AS WAS HIS WONT. AND THE MINISTER WENT FORTH SEARCHING AND FOUND NONE. SO HE RETURNED IN SCORROW, FEARING HIS LIFE WOULD BE FORFEIT BY THE KING.



THEN THE VIZIER REMEMBERED HIS ONLY DAUGHTERS, SCHEHERAZADE AND DUNYAZAD, BEAUTIFUL, WELL-BRED GIRLS, WELL-VERSED IN PHILOSOPHY AND THE SCIENCES.

HOWON THAT DAY THE ELDEST DAUGHTER NOTICED HER FATHER'S SADNESS AND QUESTIONED HIM, AND THE VIZIER REVEALED ALL!



SCHEHERAZADE WAS DEMAILED BY HER KING WHO WOULD PROVE SO SELF-SERVING. BUT A PLAN FORMED IN THE WISE GIRL'S MIND. "LET ME SERVE THE KING THIS NIGHT," SHE REQUESTED, AND THE POOR MINISTER KNEW HE MUST COMPLY....!



SCHEHERAZADE THEN CONSULTED HER SISTER. "WHEN I AM IN THE PALACE, I SHALL SEND FOR YOU. AND WHEN YOU ARRIVE YOU MUST SAY, 'SISTER, TELL US ONE OF YOUR WONDERFUL STORIES TO PASS AWAY THE NIGHT.' THEN I SHALL NARRATE TALES AND, WITH ALLAH'S HELP, SAVE THE REMAINING DAUGHTERS OF THE REALM."

AND WHEN NIGHT HAD FALLEN AND THE TIME WAS AT HAND HER FATHER, THE VIZIER SADLY ESCORTED SCHEHERAZADE TO THE KING!





BUT WHEN THE KING APPROACHED HER, SHE WEEPED. "WHAT AILETH THEE?" HE ASKED. AND SCHEHERAZADE REPLIED, "OH, SIRE, I HAVE A YOUNGER SISTER, AND WISH TO TAKE LEAVE OF HER BEFORE I SEE THE DAWN." SO THE KING SENT AT ONCE FOR DUNIYAZAD AND WHEN SHE CAME SCHEHERAZADE GAVE HERSELF TO THE KING WILLINGLY. AFTERWARDS, SHE SIGNALLED TO HER YOUNGER SISTER WHO SAID: "ALLAN UPON THEE, ON MY SISTER, RECITE TO US A STORY TO WAILE AWAY THE HOURS UNTIL DAWN." "WITH JOY," ANSWERED SCHEHERAZADE, "IF THIS FIDUS AND AUSPICIOUS KING PERMITS ME." "TELL ON," QUOTH THE KING WHO CHANCED TO BE SLEEPLESS.

SO SCHEHERAZADE REJOICED, AND TRUE, THE WILY GIRL COMMENCED A TALE SO STRUCTURED THAT THE MOST EXCITING PART FELL AT THE DAWN. THE SULTAN, EAGER TO HEAR THE REMAINDER, LET HER LIVE THAT SHE MIGHT FINISH HER STORY THE FOLLOWING NIGHT.

AFTER A THOUSAND NIGHTS AND A NIGHT THE TALE REMAINED UNFINISHED. BUT SCHEHERAZADE, WHO HAD GIVEN THE KING SEVERAL SONS, ASKED THAT HER LIFE BE PERMANENTLY SPARED.

JOYFULLY, THE KING COMPLIED AND THE NOBLE COUPLE LIVED HAPPILY EVER MORE.



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RETURNING FROM A WINCH EXPLORATORY EXCURSION IN THE CONSTELLATION OF ORION, THE CREW OF THE GOLDEN EAGLE WERE PREPARED FOR CHANGES ON EARTH. THEY HAD BEEN WARNED BEFORE THEY DEPARTED THAT THEY MIGHT RETURN TO A TOTALLY DIFFERENT WORLD! BUT WHAT HAD CHANGED WAS NEARLY EVERYTHING AND WHAT HAD REMAINED THE SAME WAS PURE HORROR!

INVASION of the CYCLOPS MONSTERS



THE EAGLE BURNED FOR
HOURS DURING THE LIGHT
BLUE SKY SCARLET AND
TANNING CLEVE'S PALE
GUN. MIRACULOUSLY HE
HAD SURVIVED. HE FOUND
WHAT WAS LEFT OF MAY
WHERE THE EXPLOSION
HAD THROWN HIS BODY!

WHY CLEVE STAYED TO
WATCH HIS VALENT CRAFT
OVERINTERGRATE INTO GLOW-
ING EMBERS AND THEN
COOL TO A CHARRED
SKELETON. HE COULD NOT
KNOW.



THE WHOLE EXPEDITION
FOR NOTHING. EVERY LAST
RECORD OF OUR TRIP UP
IN SMOKE.

WHY DID THEY
ALLOW THE PORT TO
DEGENERATE THAT
WAY? DON'T THE
POPULATION OF 2084
INTERESTED IN SPACE
TRAVEL... I DO THE
LIVES OF THEIR SPACE
EXPLORERS MEAN SO
LITTLE TO THEM?



THERE'S NEW PROBE!
IT APPEARS INACTIVE...
DERELICT THAT MAY
BE THE REASON NO ONE
WAS ATTRACTED BY THE
FLAMES!



BUT MAYE COULD
HAVE HAPPENED
HERE? WHERE IS
EVERYBODY?

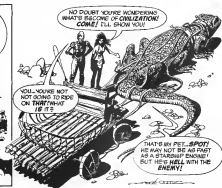
MAYBE I'LL FIND
SOME ANSWERS IF
I CAN GET THAT OLD
COPTER STARTED!



PERHAPS THE EAGLE
REPRESENTED SECURITY
ON A WORLD AS ALIEN TO
HIM AS THE STARS HE HAD
SO RECENTLY LEFT BEHIND!













I'VE BEEN
DOING THOSE
BLASTED THINGS
FOR DAYS NOW!

ZZZZ!

MY ATTACKS ARE
GOING TO HAVE TO BE
MORE SUCCESSFUL
THAN THIS IF I'M
GOING TO WIN THIS
BLASTED WAR!



I'M BUSHED
EVERY TIME I GO
OUT THERE, THEY'RE
TRYING TO HARASS
ME!

I'VE GOT
TO REST



I KNOW I KNOW
WHAT I WAS FACING.
I DON'T EVER KNOW
WHAT THOSE BLASTED
CREATURES LOOK
LIKE...

I WONDER
HOW KARMA
IS DOING

HURRY?
SOMETHING
BEHIND
ME!



ARRGGH!

BAM!

BAM!
BAM!



WELL I'LL GO!
SO THAT'S A BOUT
ALL PALE, PUTRID
AND LIMP! WHAT AN
UGLY BEAST!

I WONDER IF
THERE'S MORE
OF THEM IN
HERE!

MOVEMENT
OVER THERE
IN THE DARK--



O-C-C-C-VE-IT!
IT'S ME!
DON'T SHOOT!

A-KARMA--? WHAT
ARE YOU DOING HERE?
ARE... ARE YOU ALL
RIGHT?



LADY AGATHA HANSON LIES JUST OUTSIDE OF BEDDINGHAM, ON-THE-EDGE, NEAR THE SCOTTISH BORDER IN ITS MASTER BEDROOM. SHE SNUGGLES COMFORTABLY UNDER THE DOWN COMFORTER DE-VEERING A MURDER MYSTERY. "THE PEN IS ALIVE."

A Nightmare for Mrs. Agatha



HER HOUSEKEEPER IS VISITING HER SISTER AND LADY AGATHA DRAWS THE RAGING STORM ALONE.



THE STORM HAS GONE ON FOR SOME TIME NOW, CAUSING BURSTS OF STATIC ON THE RADIO, INTERRUPTING HER READING WITH FLASHES OF BLUE-WHITE LIGHTNING.



A FLASH OF LIGHTNING ILLUMINATES THE STUDY FILLED WITH A LIFETIME OF ACCUMULATED ENIGMAS: THE PAINTINGS, EXQUISITE FURNITURE, A FINGERLESS CHANDLER, BUT THE PINSET OF HER POSSESSIONS...THE SILVER TERRY PITCHER AND CANDLESTICKS...ARE LOOKED AWAY IN THE ATTIC.





HEY! MORE
LIGHTNING! THE BRIGHTEST
FLASH ALL EVENINGS!
RIGHT OVERHEAD, I
SHOULDN'T DOUBT!



AND THERE'S THE
THUNDER! ITS LOUD ENOUGH
TO RATTLE THE WINDOWS
I-I WISH THIS STORM WAS
OVER!

THERE ARE THOSE WHO
WELCOME THE STORM.
TWO MEN DRINKING IN A
PUB IN BENWICK-UPON-
THREE FLOT TO STEAL
LADY ASATWYS SILVER, AND
THE STORM WILL MAKE IT
EASIER.



IT'S TONIGHT OR
NEVER, TUBS! THE MERE-
LESS FORECASTS PARTLY
CLEARING TOMORROW, AND
WHAT WE MEAN TO DO IS
BEST ACCOMPLISHED ON
A STORMY, MOONLESS
NIGHT.



YOU'RE RIGHT,
BARNET. IT'S TONIGHT
OR NEVER!



LET'S GO! WITH
THIS WIND HOWLING, WE
COULD ANNOUNCE OUR VISIT
WITH TRUMPETS AND THE
OL' BAT WOULDN'T HEAR
US!







IT WAS THE FRONT DOOR. LADY AGATHA KNOWS THE
SOUNDS OF THE OLD HOUSE BY HEART AND THERE IS
NO DOUBT IN HER MIND...



...AND IF THE FRONT DOOR WAS SLAMMED, IT MEANT THAT
SHE WAS NO LONGER ALONE IN THE HOUSE.



SHE SWITCHES OFF HER BEDROOM LIGHT AND,
TAKING THE ANCIENT SHOTGUN FROM ITS RACK
IN THE UPSTAIRS HALL, CREEPS STEALTHILY
DOWN THE BACK STAIRWAY.



...THE EDGE OF HER NIGHTGOWN SKIMMING
DUST FROM THE CARPET. AFAIR TIGHTENS
HER THROAT!





LIGHTNING
FLASHES.
ALMOST
SIMULTANEOUSLY,
MAN-MADE
THUNDER
CRASHES...

**BR
O
M**



AND BARNEY WALKS
HE BACK BODDED
WITH PAIN!





NOOOOOOOO

WHEN! WHAT A
NIGHTMARE! IT'S BE-
CAUSE OF ALL THOSE
MYSTERIES!

I'VE REALLY
MUST STOP
READING THEM
BEFORE I--



SHE SWITCHES OFF THE BEDROOM LIGHT AND TAKING THE
ANCIENT ENIGMATA FROM ITS RACK IN THE UPSTAIRS HALL,
CREEPS STEALTHY TOWARD THE BACK STAIRWAY.

FEAR
TIGHTENS HER
THROAT.



James H. Hines

END

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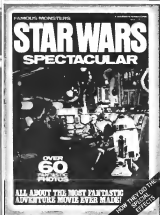
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One of the most popular horror movies in history. A young boy walks a prehistoric life to take his various hangovers. But the doctor himself is changed and hypnotizes the boy. After hypnosis, the young man is transformed by the moonlight. But he is a woman! Then it's all to tell her the doctor! #22368-15 95

THE TRIAL OF FRANKENSTEIN



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Dracula is back, in the form of actor Charles Laughton. The Count returns with a total team and appears to be in a position, making his blood of the whole country into a blood. All good things are destroyed. The monster returns to behead and buried. One of the most unusual. #22370-15 95

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A team up of two great horror actors, Lon Chaney and Lon Chaney, a truck driver is in an accident. After discovering the body, he goes through the most of high-voltage electricity, which changes him back to his. But the truck driver is no longer human. He is a creature, an electric monster. #22374-15 95

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